

INTRODUCTION

1. Mr. Bundy's memorandum of June 17th requested a thorough assessment within the intelligence community of our programs and plans for action to accomplish the critical foreign intelligence objectives listed in the enclosure to the memorandum.

2. The easy answer to the questions raised by the objectives would be to say that we are doing all within our power to accomplish those objectives and that substantial progress is being made. This is part of the answer. The intelligence community tries to get the best personnel available and gives them a considerable freedom to exercise initiative. We do believe that the community is forward-looking and aggressive, but to say simply that it is doing its best is not an acceptable response to the objectives.

3. The goals listed in Mr. Bundy's memorandum focus on the problem areas in the intelligence process. The machinery for reporting information and for disseminating it works moderately well. It is a rarity, though, for a single report to be of such significance that policy decisions can be made exclusively on the basis of information contained in the one report. Almost always

there is need to collate information from a variety of sources and to draw conclusions as to the validity of the information and as to its impact upon U.S. national security. It is here that judgments must be made--with the resultant hazard of miscalculation.

4. We appreciate the continuing concern of the President's Board with these particular matters, because that concern is shared within the intelligence community. We should like to stress that our assessment of our capability to accomplish the stated intelligence objectives will not end with the submission of this report. The progressive improvement of our capabilities will remain as the community's primary goal.